Walnut Creek offers a variety of open spaces, creeks, trails, parks, and plazas. In them, the community can enjoy and appreciate active and passive outdoor recreational opportunities from hiking to organized sports to people watching.

The 1989 General Plan followed the National Recreation and Park Association standards for park acreage per resident. That association, recognizing the difficulty of applying a single set of standards to a wide variety of parks and community needs across the country, no longer provides a national guideline for recommended park spaces. No other entity has offered standards, and the City uses no rigid definitions of types of parks.

Nevertheless, the numbers used in the 1989 General Plan are helpful in presenting a general picture of the amount of parkland available. Walnut Creek in 2005 had an estimated 66,500 residents and approximately 400 acres of parks and special use areas, or just over 6 acres for each 1,000 residents. The park standard in the subdivision ordinance—established by the 1989 General Plan—is 5 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. With more than 2,700 acres of open space land, Walnut Creek has over 45 acres of parks and open spaces for each of its 1,000 residents.

For a listing of city parks and open spaces, see Figure 5 at the end of this chapter.

This chapter comprises four sections—Open Space, Creeks, Trails, and Parks and Plazas. The sections overlap on some issues. For example, creeks and trails are present in the open spaces and in the parks and plazas.

**OPEN SPACE**

Walnut Creek has one of the largest aggregations of city-owned open space in the United States—over 2,700 acres of oak woodland, savannah, and chaparral. With proceeds of a bond issue authorized by the citizens in 1974, the City bought and preserved the undeveloped Acalanes Ridge, Lime Ridge, Shell Ridge, and Sugarloaf Open Spaces. The largest of the four—Shell Ridge—has roughly 1,420 acres of oak woodlands and grassland savannah and 31 miles of trails.

Figure 1 on page 3-4 shows Walnut Creek’s open space areas in 2005. Open spaces serve a variety of functions.

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1 Open space land is any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use for the purposes of the preservation of natural resources, the managed production of resources, outdoor recreation, or public health and safety. (California Government Code §65560(b))
Chapter 3, Natural Environment and Public Spaces

- Preserve natural resources
- Provide wildlife habitat and corridors
- Provide outdoor recreation
- Supply an important visual and aesthetic resource to those who live and work in the city
- Contribute to overall public safety (e.g., steeply sloped hillsides susceptible to landslides are kept open and free of development)
- Allow for limited educational and recreational activities

To preserve and enhance the open spaces, the City works with a number of nonprofit and quasi-public organizations. To ensure that city open spaces are not isolated, the City works cooperatively with other cities and government agencies to promote connectivity between adjacent open space areas.

OPEN SPACE DESCRIPTIONS

Acalanes Ridge Open Space
Located in the northwest area of the city between Walnut Creek and Lafayette, this open space area comprises a series of ridges that trend northwest and southeast and terminate at the junction of Highway 24 and Interstate 680. Acalanes Ridge Open Space is easily accessible for recreational uses.

Lime Ridge Open Space
Lime Ridge is the dominant saddle leading to Mount Diablo. This open space area is rich in plants and animals and hosts some of the last remaining chaparral in the area. Lime Ridge is a natural greenbelt between Walnut Creek and Concord/Clayton to the east.

Shell Ridge Open Space
Shell Ridge Open Space comprises a series of parallel ridges running from northwest to southeast through Walnut Creek to Mt. Diablo. The ridges and valleys constitute a major watershed for the Walnut Creek and Ygnacio Valley basins. Runoff from these lands contributes substantially to underground aquifers. Shell Ridge Open Space includes the historic Borges Ranch, a working ranch established in 1899 and on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Sugarloaf Open Space
A major ridge and a number of smaller ridges paralleling Interstate 680 between Rudgear Road and Livorna Road make up the Sugarloaf Open Space. The area provides easily accessible recreation among some of the last walnut orchards in the city.

Other Open Space Areas
Other open space areas in the Walnut Creek area are Castle Rock Regional Recreational Area, Diablo Foothills Regional Park, and Mt. Diablo State Park.

Although they do not qualify as open space, three golf courses are shown in Figure 1 because they are large, open, and generally green areas. Boundary Oak Golf Course is owned by the City but is privately operated. The Rossmoor and Diablo Hills courses are privately owned and operated. Figure 5 at the end of this chapter lists the parks and open space areas in the city in 2006.
Chapter 3, Natural Environment and Public Spaces

GOAL 1

Maintain and enhance open space lands.

Policy 1.1. Protect, manage and improve open space lands.

Action 1.1.1. Prepare and adopt a plan for the protection and management of the City’s open space lands.

Action 1.1.2. Work with other public agencies (such as water districts, adjacent cities, and park districts) in managing, operating, linking and providing access to open space.

Policy 1.2. Protect and enhance the natural environment.

Action 1.2.1. Identify, protect, restore, and enhance sensitive biological and wetland resources and areas critical for habitat and habitat connectivity. (See Action 2.1.3.)

Action 1.2.2. Strive to eliminate non-native plant species and expand areas with native plants.

Action 1.2.3. Monitor and control the factors affecting the habitat value of open space, including trail use and grazing.

Action 1.2.4. Support resource conservation opportunities on private land.

Policy 1.3. Promote a variety of appropriate activities on open space lands.

Action 1.3.1. Assess user demand and impacts on open space and natural resources.

Action 1.3.2. Allow on open space lands, only facilities, structures, and activities compatible with conservation, preservation, and education.

Action 1.3.3. Review and update existing policies for open space activities and monitor their effectiveness.

Policy 1.4. Provide convenient public access to open space lands and trails.

Action 1.4.1. Secure public access, where possible, to private open space lands.

Action 1.4.2. Provide trailheads, parking areas, gates, and trails that meet generally accepted access standards and are sensitive to neighborhood interests.

Family of hikers enjoying the Open Space
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Figure 1. Existing Open Space, 2005

* Other publicly owned lands are used as open space but are not programmed for open space use by the City of Walnut Creek.

Prepared for illustrative purposes only. Refer to General Plan Land Use Map.

Source Data: City of Walnut Creek 2005

Base Map Data: November 20, 2003

Chapter 3, Natural Environment and Public Spaces
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**GOAL 2**

Acquire additional open space lands or conservation easements.

**Policy 2.1.** Develop a plan for acquiring additional open space lands or conservation easements.

**Action 2.1.1.** Develop criteria for possible acquisitions of open space lands important to the City.

**Action 2.1.2.** Identify and maintain a list and map of properties where open space acquisition should be considered.

**Action 2.1.3.** Give priority to acquiring lands that provide connections for animals between open spaces and/or important habitat.

**Policy 2.2.** Plan for funding for open space acquisition or conservation easements.

**Action 2.2.1.** Establish mechanisms for funding and maintaining new acquisitions and easements.

**Action 2.2.2.** Seek grants and other funds for acquisition and development.

**Policy 2.3.** Support retention as open space of the private open space ranch lands adjoining Mount Diablo State Park.

**Action 2.3.1.** Work cooperatively with property owners toward retention of open space lands adjacent to Mount Diablo State Park.

**Policy 2.4.** As development projects arise, strive to preserve existing private open space lands under private ownership, and to provide public access to these private open spaces.

**Action 2.4.1.** Develop and maintain an inventory of private open spaces and conservation easements.

**Action 2.4.2.** Encourage conservation easements that provide public access over private lands.

**Action 2.4.3.** Work cooperatively with developers in securing public access where desirable, without requiring the City to maintain private trails.

**Policy 2.5.** Acquire private open space lands within development projects only when and where public ownership or access is desirable or necessary.

---

*Shell Ridge Open Space*
Figure 2. Watersheds and Creeks

Chapter 3, Natural Environment and Public Spaces
CREEKS

The city's creeks are important community assets to be protected and enhanced. They also are factors in flooding and are critical to flood control.

The Planning Area occupies the southern part of the broad Walnut Creek Valley. The Walnut Creek watershed drains the central region of Contra Costa County northward to Suisun Bay. Within it are the Grayson, Pine, San Ramon, and Las Trampas sub-watersheds through which flow the Walnut, Pine, San Ramon, Tice, and Las Trampas Creeks. San Ramon and Las Trampas Creeks join under the fountain in Liberty Bell Plaza to form the north-flowing Walnut Creek. See Figure 2, Watersheds and Creeks, page 3-6.

Natural creeks traverse the open space areas and a few of the city’s developed areas. However, almost every creek in the city has been significantly altered from its natural condition and either channelized or undergrounded to control flooding and to allow development.

Within the network of creeks in the Planning Area, Walnut Creek has the opportunity to:

- Make the creeks more accessible by deconstructing channels and exposing covered creeks
- Restore or enhance habitat
- Improve linkages to the large open space areas and to the undeveloped lands remaining at the fringe of the Planning Area
- Create new trail links to and between neighborhoods

The 1993 Creeks Restoration and Trails Master Plan presents a hydraulic understanding of the major watersheds in the city and offers a plan for restoring each creek in the city’s Core Area. The plan seeks to use creek corridors as a natural green edge to the predominantly urban core, thereby providing visual relief to, and enhancing the image of, the city and the downtown. Residents already enjoy the Walnut Creek channel via a creek walk and a scenic overlook at Broadway and Lincoln Avenue.

GOAL 3

Maintain and enhance the area’s creek systems, their riparian environments, and their recreational amenities.

Policy 3.1. Restore riparian corridors and waterways throughout the city.

Action 3.1.1. Conduct an evaluation of existing creek conditions and restoration opportunities.

Action 3.1.2. Through land acquisition and/or conservation easements, create or improve riparian corridors, riparian lands within parks, wetlands, and buffer zones.
Action 3.1.3. Develop a coordinated set of creek policies covering setbacks from creeks, damage prevention, creek stewardship, nuisance abatement, public access, pathways, and similar public and environmental concerns. Policies may differ for creeks in open space lands and for creeks on private lands.

Action 3.1.4. Cooperate with landowners, the public, regulatory and trustee agencies, and local and State agencies to expand creek restoration efforts and programs.

Action 3.1.5. Seek local, county, regional, State, and federal funds for creek studies and improvement efforts.

Policy 3.2. Make downtown creeks a central feature in new development.

Action 3.2.1. Implement the 1993 Creeks Restoration and Trails Master Plan.

Action 3.2.2. Incorporate the downtown creeks in project designs for new development and redevelopment in the Core Area.

Action 3.2.3. Expose covered creeks and incorporate open creeks in new development and redevelopment wherever possible.

Action 3.2.4. Encourage the use of volunteers to implement the 1993 Creeks Restoration and Trails Master Plan.

TRAILS

Walnut Creek has many miles of pedestrian and equestrian trails and bike routes along canals, former railroad rights-of-way, and within parks and open space areas. Many of the trails connect to the regional Contra Costa County trails system. See Figure 3, Trails, page 3-9.

The trail network adds immeasurably to the quality of life. It provides opportunities for residents and visitors to be outside and enjoy the climate and the views of Mount Diablo and surrounding hills. The trails provide respite from the built environment, bring the surrounding open space into the city, and facilitate access to diverse recreational amenities. Trails of various length and character connect the east and west sides of the city, its neighborhoods and community facilities, and access points to regional trails. The trails are an important component of the city’s circulation system.

The Walnut Creek section of the Contra Costa Canal regional trail – from Citrus Avenue to Putnam Boulevard – is maintained by the East Bay Regional Park District and provides for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians along its entire length. The trail connects Lime Ridge Open Space with Heather Farm Community Park, Walden Park, the Mokelumne Aqueduct Trail, and the Iron Horse Trail.
Central Contra Costa County Regional Trails
1. Contra Costa Canal Trail
2. Iron Horse Regional Trail
3. Ygnacio Canal Trail
4. Borries to Mt. Diablo Regional Trail
5. Lafayette - Moraga Regional Trail
6. Sugarloaf - Shell Ridge Trail
7. Shell - Lime Ridge Trail

Lime Ridge Open Space
8. Crystal Ranch Trail
9. Paradise Valley Trail
10. Ridge Trail
11. Lime Ridge Trail
12. Manzanita Trail
13. Buckeye Trail
14. Woodlands South Trail
15. Ohlone Trail
16. Parauso Trail
17. Cottonwood Trail
18. Woodlands West Trail
19. Woodlands North Trail
20. Blue Oak Trail

Shell Ridge Open Space
21. Coral Spring Trail
22. Francis Ranch Loop Trail
23. Foothills Trail
24. Indian Creek Trail
25. Novak Trail
26. Fossil Hill Trail
27. Twin Ponds Loop Trail
28. Stage Road Trail
29. Castle Rock Trail
30. Borges Ranch Trail
31. Costansan Trail
32. Joaquin Ranch Trail
33. Hanging Valley Trail
34. Ridge Top Trail
35. Marina Lane Trail
36. North Gate Trail
37. Stonegate Trail
38. Ginger Gap Loop Trail
39. Shell Ridge Trail
40. Sulfur Creek Trail
41. Deer Lake Trail
42. Lower Buck Trail
43. Summit Ridge Trail

Sugarloaf Open Space
44. Bottom Spring Trail
45. Orchard Trail
46. Ridge Top Center Trail
47. Center Trail

Acalanes Ridge Open Space
48. Ridge Top Trail
49. Camino - Verde Trail
50. Souss Trail

Other
51. Creek Trail

**Refer to Chapter 5, Figure 2 for Bicycle Facilities**

Note: This map is prepared for illustrative purposes and is not inclusive of all trails within the City of Walnut Creek. For more detailed information, consult the maps produced by the East Bay Regional Park District and Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation.
The Ygnacio Canal pedestrian and bicycle trail forms a loop with the Contra Costa Canal Trail. It links the Lime Ridge Open Space, Boundary Oak Golf Course, Arbolado Park, San Miguel Park, and Heather Farm Community Park. Recently an over-crossing was added over Ygnacio Valley Road to connect the Iron Horse Regional Trail.

**GOAL 4**

Provide a system of safe, well-developed, well-connected, and well-maintained trails.

**Policy 4.1.** Plan for a full complement of interconnected trails and paths for walkers, joggers, bicyclists, and equestrians, from the regional trails to downtown trails and paths. (See Transportation Action 6.1.1.)

**Action 4.1.1.** Work with the County, the East Bay Regional Park District, and other agencies to develop trail links between residential areas and parks, creeks, transportation, schools, open space, shopping, and various public facilities.

**Action 4.1.2.** Link adjacent urban or open space trails and nearby open spaces owned by various agencies.

**Action 4.1.3.** Complete bicycle and pedestrian trail linkages, including the following:

- In the Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek BART areas
- From Heather Farm Park to John Muir Medical Center
- Along the Iron Horse Regional Trail near the Sugarloaf Open Space, downtown, Las Lomas High School and Walden Park

**Action 4.1.4.** Use existing easements and creeks for trail links to neighborhoods.

**Action 4.1.5.** Encourage easements in residential neighborhoods for pedestrian connections to trails.

**Policy 4.2.** Maintain and improve the trails system, including to and within the open space lands.

**Action 4.2.1.** Provide consistent, clear signage for all trails and at all trailheads.

**Action 4.2.2.** Promote rancher-friendly conservation and recreational trail easements over key agricultural lands.

**Action 4.2.3.** Monitor trails for signs of environmental degradation and repair the ecosystem along trails where necessary.

**Action 4.2.4.** Identify equestrian staging areas and add or improve as needed. (See the North Gate Specific Plan.)

**Policy 4.3.** Promote safety on all trails and on the roads leading to them.

**Action 4.3.1.** Track safety complaints on trails and, where patterns are identified, work with user groups on solutions.

**Action 4.3.2.** Working with residents and equestrians, respond to identified road/trail (auto/horse) conflicts, including providing improved signage where needed.

**Action 4.3.3.** In areas where horses frequently are ridden, evaluate the need to develop equestrian trails adjacent to paved roads.

**Action 4.3.4** With Contra Costa County, require construction rather than deferral of road improvements (including equestrian trails) in...
PARKS AND PLAZAS

The City owns and operates 19 parks with a variety of amenities and uses, plus a number of special-use areas including a golf course, historic museum, historic residence, and one urban plaza.

The City has worked with the school districts to allow public use of elementary and middle school recreation areas, when not being used by the schools.

See Figure 4, Parks and Recreation Facilities, following this page, and Figure 5 at the end of this chapter.

In 2005, the City initiated a Parks Master Plan for City parks and open spaces. The City also began looking at providing plazas in the Core Area for resting, people watching and public gatherings.

GOAL 5
Maintain and enhance the park system.

Policy 5.1. Support both active and passive recreation uses in the park system.

Action 5.1.1. Partner with schools and businesses to offer active use areas.

Action 5.1.2. Coordinate local sports organizations’ use of sports fields, courts, gyms, and swimming pools.

Action 5.1.3. Adopt standards for size, number and placement of sports fields and courts.

Action 5.1.4. Provide for multiple uses within the same park space, where practical and safe.

Policy 5.2. Regularly assess specific user groups’ needs and abilities.

Action 5.2.1. Determine park uses based on community need and the size and nature of each facility.

Action 5.2.2. Plan for accessible parks, playgrounds, and trails.

Policy 5.3. Ensure that the City’s parks are appropriately developed and well maintained.

Action 5.3.1. Establish minimum maintenance and service levels in the Parks Master Plan.

Action 5.3.2. Seek grants and other funds for park development and maintenance.

Action 5.3.3. Organize volunteer days for park cleanup and maintenance.
1. Alma Park  
2. Arbolado Park  
3. Borges Ranch  
4. Boundary Oak Golf Course  
5. Castle Rock Youth Sports Park  
6. Civic Park  
7. Civic Park Community Center  
8. Clarke Memorial Swim Center  
9. Diablo Hills Golf Course (Private)  
10. Diablo Shadows Park  
11. El Divisadero Park  
12. Foothill Community Gymnasium  
13. Heather Farm Park & Heather Farm Community Center  
14. Howe Homestead Park  
15. Lar Rieu Property  
16. Larkey Community Park  
17. Larkey Park Swim Center  
18. Las Lomas High School  
19. Liberty Bell Plaza  
20. Northgate High School  
21. Northgate Park  
22. Old Oak Park  
23. Pine Creek Park & Greenway  
24. Rossmoor Golf Course (Private)  
25. Rudgear Park  
26. San Miguel Park  
27. Shadelands Museum  
28. Tice Valley Community Park & Tice Valley Community Gymnasium  
29. Valle Verde Park  
30. Walden Park  
31. Walnut Creek Equestrian Center  
32. Walnut Creek Skate Park  
33. Ygnacio Heights Park

April 4, 2006

Walnut Creek General Plan 2025

3-15
Chapter 3, Natural Environment and Public Spaces

GOAL 6

Acquire additional parklands.

Policy 6.1. Plan park acquisitions and provide parkland and facilities adequate to support the city’s recreational needs, activities, and programs.

Action 6.1.1. Maintain 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 people.

Action 6.1.2. Work with the community to identify underserved groups.

Action 6.1.3. Evaluate the need for additional parks. (See Action 6.2.1)

Action 6.1.4. Study and establish mechanisms for funding and maintaining new park acquisitions.

Action 6.1.5. Develop and maintain an acquisition plan that includes a list and map of existing and potential park properties.

Action 6.1.6. Consider acquisition of parkland under any of the following conditions:

- Where community need or use demands
- Where the acquisition can provide greenbelt connections between open spaces
- When acquisition opportunities arise
- Where an opportunity arises for an urban wildlife preservation area

Policy 6.2. Require that new development address park needs generated by a project.

Action 6.2.1. Assess the park and recreation needs created by new Core Area housing development and changing populations. (See Action 6.1.3.)

Action 6.2.2. Consider establishing an impact fee on commercial development to be used to develop new or enhance existing parks or public plazas.

GOAL 7

Provide publicly accessible outdoor spaces in the Core Area.

Policy 7.1. Create a large civic plaza in the Traditional Downtown.

Action 7.1.1. Develop a plan that analyzes sites, feasibility and funding sources for a civic plaza in the Traditional Downtown.

Policy 7.2. Encourage the development of, maintenance of, and connectivity between high-quality public spaces in the Core Area.

Action 7.2.1. Define, design, and complete a network of public walkways and small public spaces in the Core Area.

Policy 7.3. In conjunction with Core Area commercial and residential development and redevelopment, offer incentives for creating and maintaining public spaces, including pocket parks and plazas. (See Chapter 4, Action 6.2.3.)

Action 7.3.1. Identify potential pocket park and plaza locations when reviewing precise and specific plans.
### Figure 5

**Parks and Open Spaces**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Size (acres rounded)</th>
<th>Amenities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CITY PARKS AND SPECIAL USE AREAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alma Park</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
<td>Picnic areas, benches, views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbolado Park</td>
<td>26 acres</td>
<td>Playground, sports fields and courts, picnic areas, restrooms, trail connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundary Oak Golf Course</td>
<td>160 acres</td>
<td>18-hole golf course, pro shop, driving range, practice greens, restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castle Rock Youth Sports Park</td>
<td>6 acres</td>
<td>Sports fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic Park</td>
<td>17 acres</td>
<td>Playground, sports courts, community center, library, gazebo, picnic area, native plant/butterfly habitat garden, restrooms, and trail connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diablo Shadows Park</td>
<td>3 acres</td>
<td>Playground, picnic areas, trail connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Divisadero Park</td>
<td>3 acres</td>
<td>Sports fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Farm Community Park</td>
<td>91 acres</td>
<td>Clarke Swim Center, playground, sports fields and courts, community center, equestrian center, bike paths, fishing pond, picnic areas, nature pond, restrooms, trail connections, limited off-leash dog area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howe Homestead Park</td>
<td>7 acres</td>
<td>1930s-era residence, community gardens, trail connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster Road Property</td>
<td>&lt; 1 acre</td>
<td>Viewshed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larkey Park</td>
<td>12 acres</td>
<td>Larkey Swim Center, playground, sports courts, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, Model Railroad Society, picnic areas, restrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lar Rieu Estate</td>
<td>10 acres</td>
<td>Undeveloped park land; use to be determined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Bell Plaza</td>
<td>&lt; 1 acre</td>
<td>Downtown plaza with fountain and seating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northgate Park</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>Lawn and benches bordered by Northgate High School and Eagle Peak Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Oak Park</td>
<td>16 acres</td>
<td>Undeveloped park land; to be developed as passive recreation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Chapter 3, Natural Environment and Public Spaces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Size (acres are rounded)</th>
<th>Amenities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pine Creek Park and Greenway</td>
<td>5 acres</td>
<td>Undeveloped park land; views, trail connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rudgear Park</td>
<td>12 acres</td>
<td>Playground, sports fields and courts, picnic areas, restrooms, trail connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Miguel Park</td>
<td>5 acres</td>
<td>Playground, sports, trail connections, limited off-leash dog area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadelands Museum</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Historical museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tice Valley Park</td>
<td>8 acres</td>
<td>Playground, gymnasium, sports fields, picnic areas, restrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valle Verde Park</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Picnic areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walden Park</td>
<td>5 acres</td>
<td>Playground, basketball courts, picnic area, restrooms, trail connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ygnacio Heights Park</td>
<td>6 acres</td>
<td>Views</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL 400 acres**

### OPEN SPACES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Size (acres)</th>
<th>Amenities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acalanes Ridge Open Space</td>
<td>179 acres</td>
<td>Trails, views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lime Ridge Open Space</td>
<td>924 acres</td>
<td>Trails, views, interpretive tours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shell Ridge Open Space</td>
<td>1,421 acres</td>
<td>Historic working Borges Ranch, trails, views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarloaf Open Space</td>
<td>177 acres</td>
<td>Trails, views, picnic areas, restrooms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL 2,701 acres**

**TOTAL CITY-OWNED PARKS/OPEN SPACE 3,101 acres**

### NON-CITY OWNED PARKS/OPEN SPACE

The City has agreements with local school districts that allow the City to share the use of the school sports fields and playgrounds. In return, the City provides some maintenance services. Covered under this agreement are Walnut Acres, Valle Verde, Eagle Peak Montessori (Castle Rock), Bancroft, Buena Vista, Parkmead, Walnut Heights, Indian Valley and Murwood elementary schools, Foothill Middle School and Walnut Creek Intermediate School.

East Bay Regional Parks owns and manages Castle Rock Regional Recreation Area and Diablo Foothills Regional Park, located in the Walnut Creek Planning Area. Both areas provide additional recreational opportunities.

Source: City of Walnut Creek, Public Works Department
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